

XV

CONCLUSION

THE INFLUENCE AND SURVIVAL OF ZOLA'S

WORKS

The tragic elements in Zola's life — His place in history —
Consequences of
his action in the Dreyfus case — Survival of his novels —
His influence
on other writers—Social influence of some of his books—
Zola's apostolic
fervour— His prophetic instinct — "Germinal,"
"Travail," "Paris,"
and the French masses—Zola's unwritten "book
Justice" — Result of
his denunciations of vice — Immorality in Paris—
Drunkenness in France
— Why Zola should be remembered,

SUCH was the life, such, also the death, of the
greatest fighter
that France produced in the latter half of the
nineteenth
century. The foregoing narrative, whatever
may be its im-
perfections, will at least have given the reader
some idea of
that strenuous career which from youth
onward was one
long battle, an incessant expenditure of will,
energy, and
talent. It was also, like a battle, a resounding
career, most
of whose phases echoed all around. In the
time of Alex-
andra Dumas *yere* it used to be said, "When
Dumas
sneezes, all Paris starts"; and the same might
have "been
subsequently said of Zola, some of whose "
sneezes," indeed,
reverberated far beyond Paris or even France.
Looking at
his life from another standpoint it will be found
akin to a
tragedy in several respects, — not the kind of
tragedy which
suggests thoughts of blood, thunder, and
thrilling horrors,
but one of hidden suffering and unrealised
aspirations. That
may be regarded perhaps as a petty,
commonplace sort of
tragedy, such as is enacted here and there

every day, and